

EXPRESS MAIL NO.: <u>ER 630638019 US</u>	DATE <u>April 12, 2004</u>
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Zeolite Compositions Having Enhanced Compressive Strength

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

69 [0001] This application is a continuation-in-part of Application No. 10/738,199 filed December 17, 2003, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein, which is a continuation-in-part of prior Application No. 10/727,370 filed December 4, 2003, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference, which is a continuation-in-part of prior Application No. 10/686,098 filed October 15, 2003, ^{now U.S. Patent No. 6,964,302} the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference, which is a continuation-in-part of prior Application No. 10/623,443 filed July 18, 2003, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference, and which is a continuation-in-part of prior Application No. 10/315,415, filed December 10, 2002, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Background

[0002] Zeolites are known to be pozzolanic materials and may be stabilized with alkali or Portland cement in the presence of sufficient water. In most cases, it is possible to accelerate or retard the setting time by using conventional cement additives. However, it is the final strength of the composition that is of industrial concern.

[0003] Conventionally, a wellbore is drilled using a drilling fluid that is continuously circulated down a drill pipe, through a drill bit, and upwardly through the wellbore to the surface. Typically, after a wellbore has been drilled to total depth, the drill bit is withdrawn from the wellbore, and circulation of the drilling fluid is stopped, thereby initiating a shutdown period. During the shutdown period, the drilling fluid is typically left in the wellbore, and a filter cake of solids from the drilling fluid, and additional dehydrated drilling fluid and gelled drilling fluid, typically forms on the walls of the wellbore.

[0004] The next operation in completing the wellbore usually involves running a pipe string, e.g., casing, into the wellbore. While the pipe is being run, the drilling fluid left in the wellbore remains relatively static. During that time, the stagnant drilling fluid progressively increases in gel strength, whereby portions of the